GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6043
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2000
WATCHDOGS FOR SIACHEN SOLDIERS
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Siachen local dogs have proved more helpful to Indian troops not only in fighting the enemy but also rough weather in the icy winds of Siachen glacier in Sub-zero conditions round the clock;

(b) if so, whether these dogs were also used to deliver mail from a vulnerable post which was under direct enemy observation to the base camp;

(c) if so, whether in view of their usefulness, the Government are considering to use and feed them properly so that they may be more useful to the army in these areas; and

(d) if so, the details of the schemes being worked out in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) & (b): Assistance of two local dogs was taken by troops in Siachen glacier for delivering mail to certain forward posts. However, one died last year but the other is still providing excellent assistance. In addition, there are four dogs of the Army which are performing the duties of Avalanche Rescue Operations.

(c) & (d): Due to remoteness of terrain, limited population and harsh weather conditions, many local dogs are not available at the heights of Siachen. However, wherever possible, these dogs are being utilised and their upkeep is ensured by the Army.